length of about 40 Km of NH-48 in Shiradi Ghat area and about 38 km length of NH 48 and NH 17 around new Mangalore Port was damaged extensively during last monsoon. Due to above damages, the heavy vehicles found difficulty in negotiating the sharp curves and hair-pin bends. However, the repair works have already been taken up by the State Government/ NHAI and the stretch is in traffic worthy condition. Further for permanent restoration of NH passing through Shiradi Ghat area, proposals amounting to Rs. 30.00 crore have been sanctioned and the works are under the process of award/implementation. For New Mangalore Port Connectivity, work of 4-laning is in progress.

(c) Though there has been some reduction in the movement of iron-ore on NH-48, due to commissioning of Hassan-Mangalore railway line, the port capacity is being utilized fully for this Cargo. However, after closure of ore mining at Kudremukh mines, the dedicated berth No. 8 of Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited is not utilized to the required capacity.

NHs in Orissa

†2680 SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Highways and the total length thereof in the State of Orissa;

(b) the year-wise details of the funds provided to the State during the last five years for repair of National Highways in the State; and

(c) whether the State Government have in the mean time forwarded any porposal to The Centre for construction of new National Highways, by-pass, railway over-bridges etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) At present, Orissa State is having 15 National Highways having total length of about 3704 km.

(b) Funds provided to the State of Orissa under Maintenance & Repair of the National Highways during last five years is tabulated as below:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Year	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Allotment under M&R (Rs. In lakh)	4261.44	5084.32	3389.39	4273.59	4491.64

(c) Government of Orissa has forwarded 13 proposals of about 1585 km length of State roads for declaration as National Highways. At present, there is no proposal for declaring more roads as National Highways in the country including Orissa. At present, emphasis is given for development of existing National Highways instead of declaring more roads as National Highways. Government of Orissa has identified 9 Nos. of construction of by passes and five road over-bridges. Feasibility study and Detailed Project preparation of these works are in progress.

New Highway from Siliguri to Nathula

†2681. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for opening of a new highway from Siliguri to Nathula following opening of Nathula commerce route;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is also any proposal for widening and developing NH-31A?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Siliguri and Nathula are connected by NH 31, NH 31 A and another road of strategic importance. Improvement of these roads has been included under different schemes. However, the Government of Sikkim has submitted a proposal for declaring alternate National Highway from Nathula to Siliguri. However, declaration of more roads as National Highways is not in the priority of the Government due to financial constraints and emphasis is given for development of existing National Highways.

(c) The proposal of widening to two lane standards of Sevoke to Gangtok (NH 31A) and Gangtok-Nathula road of strategic importance has been included under Phase A of Special Accelerated Road Development Programme of the North Eastern Region.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.